



Health Department

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Acting Commissioner of Health

Administration



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City of Milwaukee Health Department Recommends Temporary Closure of County Beaches High Bacteria Levels in Water Poses Potential Health Risk to Swimmers

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) will hold a **press conference today Friday, May 28, 2004 in the Market Street entrance of the Municipal**. MHD will issue recommendations to Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to close three public beaches over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend due to high bacteria levels in the water. MHD testing at Bradford Beach, McKinley Beach and South Shore Beach in Bayview has revealed poor water quality at each of the locations. The water contamination at the beaches believed to be related to recent heavy and extensive rainfall as well as multiple combined sewer overflow (CSO) occurrences over the past two weeks.

The MHD monitors and tests public beaches for bacteria levels throughout the summer season and issues water quality advisories as necessary to notify the public of unsafe water conditions. Signage is posted at each of the beaches by Milwaukee County daily based on MHD water quality assessment and recommendations. **Swimming or coming into contact with contaminated water can result in skin rashes and gastrointestinal illness such as diarrhea.**

The MHD will continue to conduct monitoring of five sites including the three public beaches through Labor Day. Daily water quality advisories can be found by calling the MHD at 286-5744 or by visiting the website www.wibeaches.us (the website is operated and maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and will be on-line after May 30, 2004)

WHAT:	Press conference on temporary beach closings
WHEN:	Friday, May 28, 2004
WHERE:	Zeidler Municipal Building 841 N. Broadway Market Street Entrance
TIME:	10:15 a.m.
SPEAKERS:	Mayor Tom Barrett Bevan K. Baker, CHE, Acting Health Commissioner